

PREVALENCE OF *AMBLYOMMA CAJENNENSE*
IN TEXAS WITH AN ADDITIONAL
LOCALITY RECORD.

By RICHARD B. EADS and GEORGE C. MENZIES, Austin, Texas.

It has long been felt that the "lone star" tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, is the only species in the Gulf Coast region which occurs in sufficient larval numbers in the field to justify universal condemnation under the broad designation of "wood" tick, or "seed" tick. *Americanum* larvae and nymphs occur by the thousands in grass, weeds and low shrubbery over a wide area of East and South Texas, particularly during the spring and summer months.

In December, 1948, an additional species of *Amblyomma* was encountered in numbers rivaling the more severe infestations of *americanum*. While collecting ectoparasites in South Texas, near Corpus Christi, on the Federal Game Refuge, Aransas County, Texas, we were attacked by tremendous numbers of *Amblyomma* larvae. Even though it was early winter, past experience indicated that *americanum* was involved. However, a good series of laboratory reared adults proved to be *A. cajennense*. Adults of this species were removed from the cattle, deer and peccary which were common on the Aransas Game Refuge.

A. cajennense is of considerable economic importance in the American tropics. Various authorities report that it persistently attacks man in South America, Central America and Mexico, particularly in the immature stages. From United States collection records the tick appears well established only in Texas. Cooley and Kohls (1944) list it from the following counties: Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Starr and Willacy. Bishopp and Trembley (1945) add the additional counties of Aransas, Live Oak and Uvalde.

These counties are in the southern tip of the state, generally considered the usual range of *cajennense*. However, during Q fever studies, twelve adults of this species were removed from a cow near Austin, Texas (Travis County), April 6, 1949. The specific determination was verified by Glen M. Kohls, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service. The host animal, to which the ticks were firmly attached, had been in this Central Texas County for three years since being bought as a calf in West Texas. It was determined that no cattle on the ranch had been brought in from South Texas for several years. This record represents a considerable extension of the United States range of *A. cajennense*.

Two subsequent visits were made to the same locality in May and June, 1949, but only *Amblyomma americanum* were taken.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bishopp, F. C. and Trembley, H. L. 1945. Distribution And Hosts Of Certain North American Ticks. *Jour. of Parasit.*, 31(1): 1-54.
- Cooley, R. A. and Kohls, G. M. 1944. The Genus *Amblyomma* (Ixodidae) In The United States. *Jour. of Parasit.*, 30(2): 77-111.

Bilateral Abnormality of the Antennae in *Ptochiomera nodosa* (Hemiptera, Lygaeidae). Hemipterists not infrequently encounter individuals of various species in which an antenna has failed to develop normally, so that two segments are fused into one. Such cases are usually asymmetrical, being confined to one side of the body only while the other antenna is entirely normal.

It is of interest, therefore, to note the capture of a *Ptochiomera nodosa* (Say) at Lakeland, Florida, October 1, 1949, in which both antennae have only three segments instead of the usual four. In normal individuals of this species each segment of the antenna has its own characteristic form and color. The terminal segment of the specimen in question has the typical shape and coloration of the fourth segment of a normal antenna, so that this individual gives the impression of lacking the *third* segment of each antenna.

The first segment of both antennae is normal, 0.29 mm. long by 0.09 mm. in thickness. The second segment of the right antenna likewise is normal, being 0.48 mm. in length and gradually increasing in thickness from 0.04 mm. at the base to 0.09 at the apex, but the same segment of the left antenna measures 0.53 mm. in length. The "third" or terminal segments are fusiform, 0.14 mm. in maximum thickness, black in color but becoming pale toward the apex, the right one 0.51 mm. long and the left measuring 0.66 mm. in length. The total length of the right antenna is 1.29 mm., of the left one 1.48 mm.

For comparison, measurements were made of an individual with normal antennae whose four segments are respectively 0.29, 0.48, 0.43 and 0.49 mm. in length, and 0.09, 0.09, 0.15 and 0.14 in maximum thickness. The total length of this normal antenna is thus 1.69 mm. In both these individuals the total width of the head is 0.60 mm. and the interocular width is 0.35 mm. ROLAND F. HUSSEY, Lakeland, Florida.